

# One dead after boat flips on treacherous Manukau Bar

One person has died and two others were rescued after a boat flipped while trying to cross the Manukau Bar.

Emergency services were called about 12.20pm yesterday after a report of an overturned vessel in large swells, sending the coastguard and Westpac Rescue Helicopter to the scene off the coast of Huia.

Police said it was thought the boat overturned in the morning while trying to cross the Manukau sand bar but was not reported until later.

"They were in the water quite some time before a passing boat noticed the wreckage," said Senior Sergeant Ross Hunter.

Men on the passing boat called in the incident and pulled two people wearing lifejackets from the water. However, the third person was already dead, Hunter said.

The boat had since sunk.

Hunter said the men who responded were "very professional" and he "can't thank them enough".

The circumstances in which the boat overturned remained under investigation.

Manukau Bar is well known as one of the most dangerous in the country.

In 2014, two men died in a crossing, when their small boat was swamped by waves.



Emergency services were called just after noon yesterday to reports of an overturned boat in large swells.

Photo / Michael Craig

# Top cop quits after jury trial

Veteran officer and police silent on possible sizeable severance package

Sam Hurley

**A** top cop accused of sexually assaulting two women has left the force after being acquitted by a jury and facing an employment inquiry.

But both he and police remain tight-lipped about the possibility of a substantial severance package which may have been paid when the detective inspector tossed in his badge.

The allegations against Kevin Burke had stemmed from when he was a detective in the Auckland area



during 2002 and 2003. Two women claimed they met him during separate criminal investigations he was involved in before later accusing him of sexual assault.

Burke was charged but found not guilty by 12 jurors in February of two charges of indecent assault and two counts of sexual violation by unlawful sexual connection.

His lawyer, Arthur Fairley, said Burke "always wanted to face the jury" to clear his name.

"Clearly I've got things to consider, so I'd just like time to spend with my family and my legal team," Burke told media after the verdicts.

Now, after a lengthy career in blue, the 61-year-old has retired.

Burke's last day was August 30, Detective Superintendent Chris Page

said in a statement to the *Herald on Sunday*.

However, Burke had not been on active duty since April 2017, when he was suspended with pay at the start of the criminal investigation.

Page said he was unable to comment further on the internal employment matter.

The *Herald on Sunday* understands from multiple sources, however, that the two parties have reached a form of settlement which included Burke's retirement. Both parties are now bound by a confidentiality clause, the *Herald on Sunday* understands.

Police said an employment investigation was to follow the criminal proceedings, though details of any such investigation remain unclear.

A review by the Independent Police Conduct Authority is also in the works after complaints were made about how the case was handled. The IPCA was approached for comment by the *Herald on Sunday*

about the timeline of its investigation but did not reply to questions.

During Burke's High Court trial, the jury heard the first complainant was of a similar age to Burke at the time, in her 40s, while the second was in her 20s at the time of the alleged offending.

The first met with Burke in 2002 to discuss her dealings with a fraudster the detective had been investigating.

A few weeks later Burke arrived uninvited at the woman's home carrying a box of beer and a bottle of wine, the Crown claimed at his trial.

The pair talked for several hours, however, the woman said she thought Burke was too drunk to drive. She offered him a bed in the spare room, where the Crown alleged,

Burke started to kiss her. Burke was then accused of overpowering the woman and sexually assaulting her.

The second complainant was in a violent relationship with a notorious criminal, while Burke was investigating an assault after the woman had been stabbed.

"I thought [Burke] was awesome. He was my hero," she said while giving evidence.

But Burke was later accused of coming to the woman's home one night, before undressing, climbing into bed with her, and rubbing himself on her.

The woman made a formal complaint in 2017, sparking the criminal investigation into the top cop.

Burke, however, said the second woman's allegations simply never occurred.

"I totally refute these allegations, it just never happened," Burke said during one of his three police interviews played during his trial.



Kevin Burke

## Early Bird Sale

HIGHLIGHTING

### MAJESTIC YANGTZE

15 day fully inclusive Classic Tour

One of our most popular tours that incorporates China's world-renowned cities and sights - visit the giant pandas, admire the Great Wall and the Terracotta Army, and enjoy a relaxing four night Yangtze river cruise.

FIRST PERSON FROM

**\$5,780** pp twin share\*

PARTNER FLIES FREE FROM

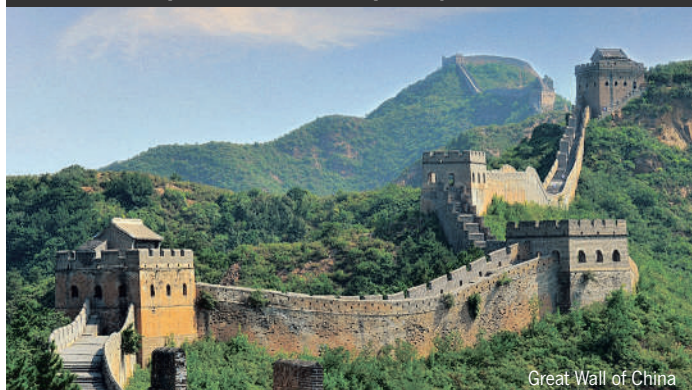
**\$4,480** pp twin share\*

Price based on 05 Mar 2020 departure.  
Additional charges: Tipping RMB600pp

AIRFARES INCLUDED ✈️

## PARTNER FLIES FREE

Book your place on a 2020 Asia group tour of 15 days or more, and your partner flies free!



Great Wall of China

Our Classic tours include:

- ✓ Return international economy airfares
- ✓ All meals, transport and accommodation
- ✓ Entrance fees and sightseeing
- ✓ English speaking National Escort and/or local guides
- ✓ Taxes and charges

REQUEST YOUR BROCHURE TODAY



**Wendy Wu Tours**

**0800 936 3998**

wendywutours.co.nz/early-bird-2020-sale

info@wendywutours.co.nz

or contact your local travel agent

\*Partner flies free is valid on International airfare inclusive tours of 15 days or more to China, Southeast Asia, Japan, India and Sri Lanka, departing between 01 February and 31 July 2020. Subject to applicable discounted airfares being available. Single travellers will be offered a discount of up to \$600 off, subject to availability. A non-refundable deposit of \$2000 per person is due within 3 days of confirmation. Valid for new bookings only. Partner flies free is not applicable with any other offer except past passenger discounts or otherwise stated. Sale ends on 18 October 2019. Advertised price based on selected low season prices, seasonal surcharges apply to other departures. Refer to 2019/20 brochure or www.wendywutours.co.nz/early-bird-2020-sale for full tour details and booking conditions. Prices correct as at 18 Sept 2019.